(b) Government has the policy of progressively enhancing indigenous content of weapon systems in the Armed Forces. We are self reliant in several areas of military technology *i.e.* arms and ammunition, combat and armoured vehicles, guided missiles, aircraft, communication, radars and sonar systems.

(c) Self-sufficiency is dictated by threat perception in a region which is a continuously changing phenomenon. India is moving steadily in the direction of achieving the goal of self-sufficiency.

Short Service Commission in the Navy to Commercial Licence Holders

†995. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to award Short Service Commission in the Navy to the commercial licence holders for the sailing of ships;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of commissioned officers likely to be awarded commission?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Commercial licence holders of ships are eligible to apply for Short Service Commission in the Navy if they fulfil the age and educational criteria prescribed for recruitment in the Navy. There are no earmarked vacancies. Those persons who qualify in the Services Selection Board and come in the merit, are granted Short Service Commission.

Terrorists killed by Army in J&K

996. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of terrorists are waiting to cross over to India from across the border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.